DELL
Movie Classic

NO. 1052

Still 10¢

The heroic struggle of one man who defied the mighty Roman Empire

MGM's

BEN-HUR

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Directed by

WILLIAM WYLER

Starring

CHARLTON HESTON · JACK HAWKINS

HAYA HARAREET · STEPHEN BOYD

HUGH GRIFFITH · MARTHA SCOTT

CATHY O'DONNELL · SAM JAFFE

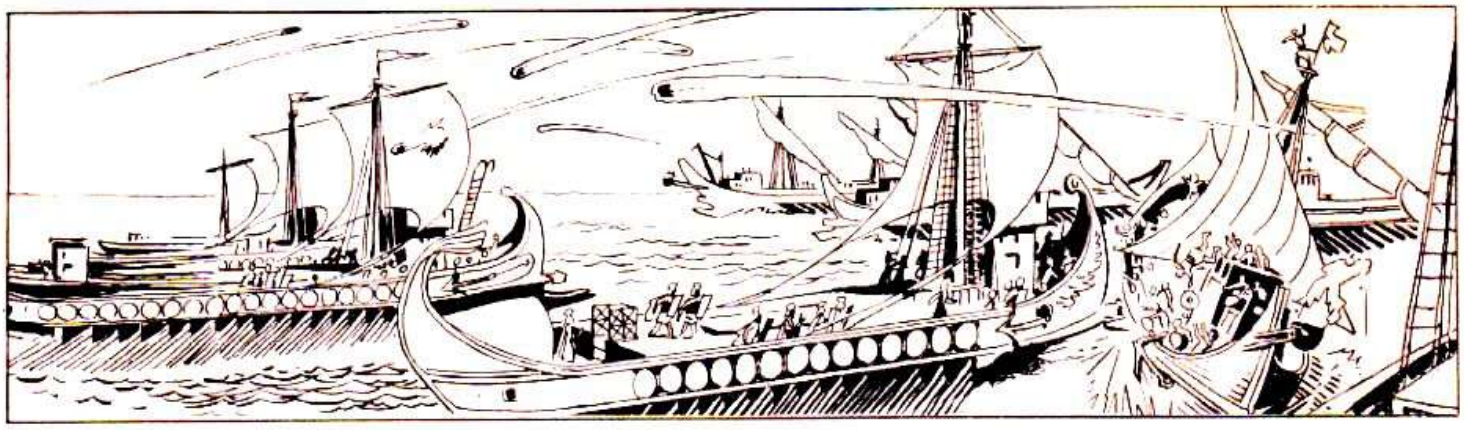
Screen Play by

KARL TUNBERG · SAM ZIMBALIST

Produced by

In Ancient Rome, bitter enmity severs the friends Messala the Roman and Ben-Hur . . . conqueror against the conquered . . .

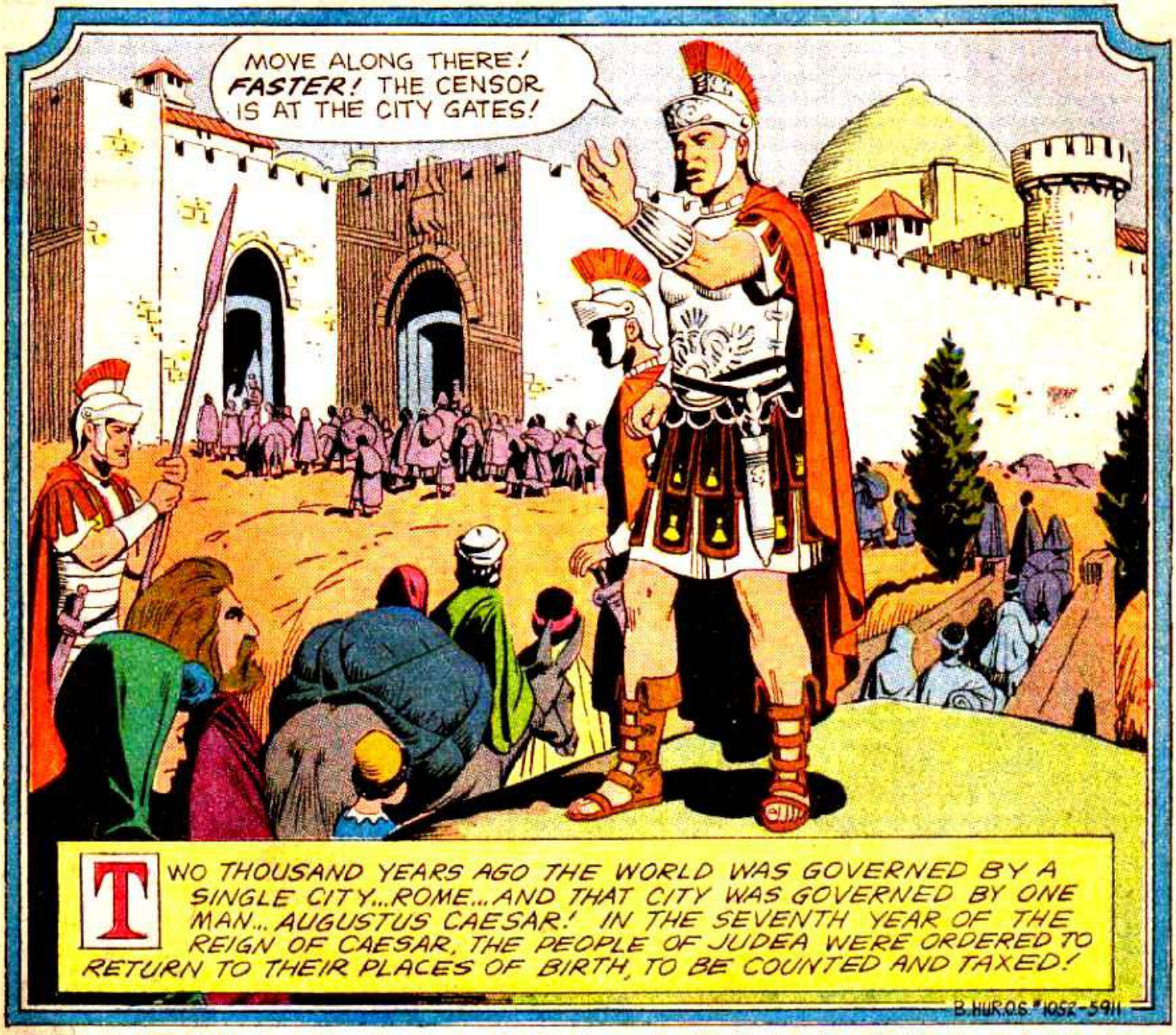
Ben-Hur is sentenced to slavery, from which no man ever returned . . .



But war at sea brings freedom and a strange new destiny . . .

And Ben-Hur returns to complete victory over his enemy Messala . . .

BEN-HUR



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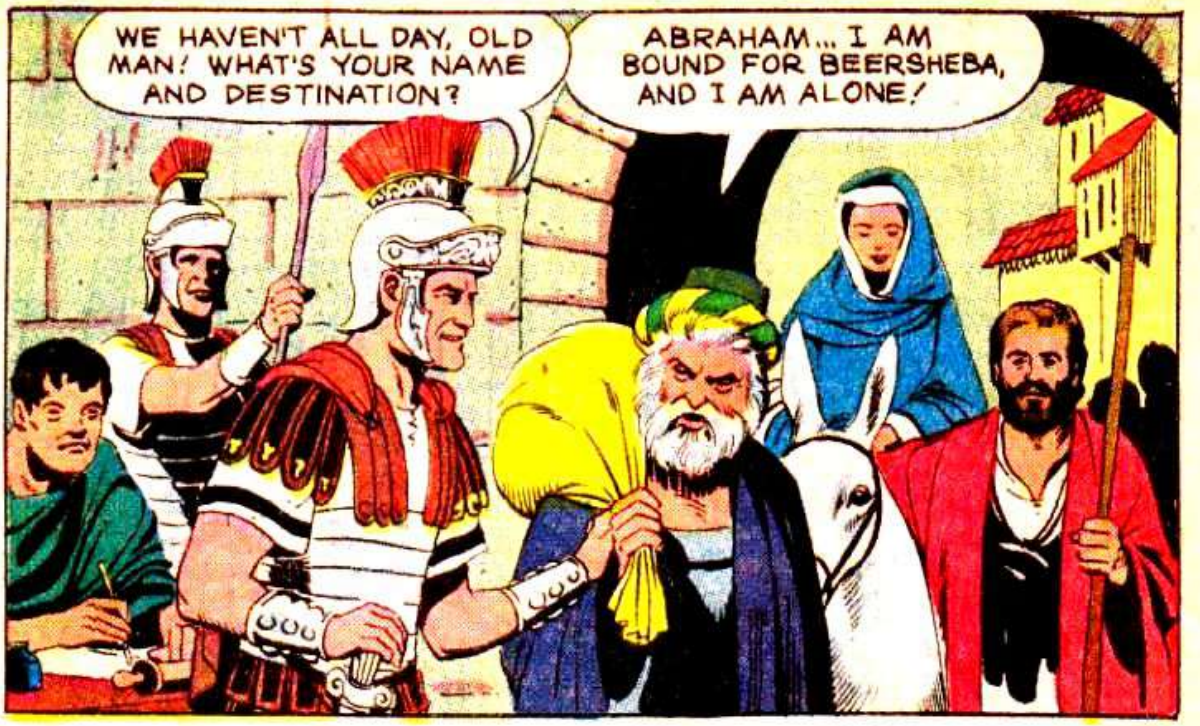
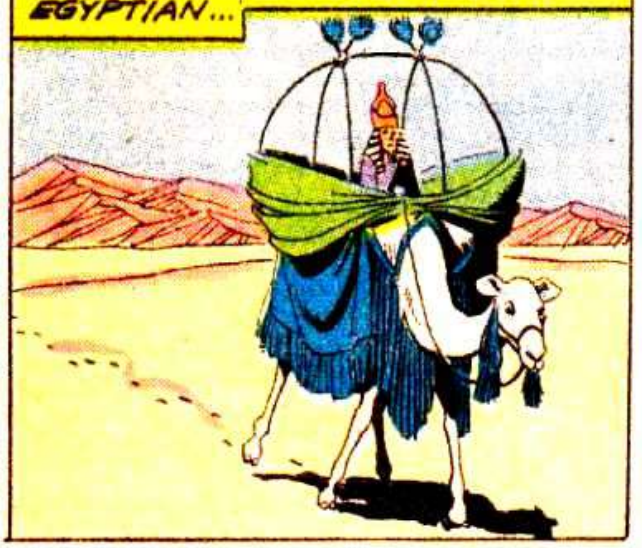
THOUGH THE JUDEANS WERE A CONQUERED PEOPLE, STILL THEY KEPT THEIR PRIDE! ALWAYS THEY REMEMBERED THE PROMISE OF THEIR PROPHETS, THAT ONE DAY THERE WOULD BE BORN AMONG THEM A REDEEMER, THEIR OWN KING, TO BRING THEM SALVATION AND PERFECT FREEDOM...



BUT NOT ALL OBEYED THE LAW OF CAESAR! FAR TO THE SOUTH, IN THE JUDEAN DESERT CAME A TRAVELER... BALTHASAR, THE EGYPTIAN...



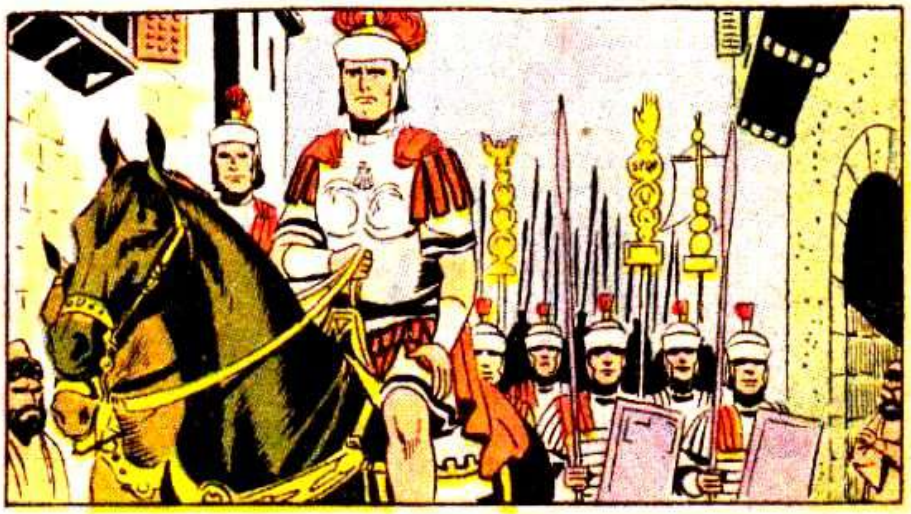
THEN CAME TWO MORE TRAVELERS, MELCHIOR, THE HINDU, AND GASPAR, THE GREEK, TO JOIN BALTHASAR...

THESE THREE WISE MEN HAD BEEN TOLD TO FOLLOW THE STAR...TO FIND HIM WHO WAS TO BE BORN KING OF THE JEWS...

THEIR TRAVELS TOOK THEM TO THE LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM...

AND THERE THEY FOUND THE BABE...

THIRTY YEARS PASSED... THE CHILD IN THE MANGER GREW TO MANHOOD...


STILL UNDER ROME'S HAND, THE PEOPLE SUFFERED! IN ROME, A NEW CAESAR RULED... TIBERIUS! HIS LEGIONS, PROUD AND VICTORIOUS, RANGED THE EARTH...AND HE SENT A NEW LEGION TO RULE IN JERUSALEM...

JOSEPH, YOU DON'T WATCH THE SOLDIERS!
WE HAVE SEEN ROMANS BEFORE! WE WILL SEE THEM AGAIN!

MY TABLE IS NOT FINISHED! YOUR SON IS NEGLECTING HIS WORK! WHERE IS HE?
HE IS WALKING IN THE HILLS!

ONCE I REPROACHED HIM WITH FORGETTING HIS WORK, AND HE SAID TO ME, "I MUST BE ABOUT MY FATHER'S BUSINESS."

BUT YOU ARE HIS FATHER!

AS THE ROMANS NEAR THE CASTLE OF ANTONIA...
DRUSUS, WHEN I WAS A BOY, I DREAMED OF COMMANDING THIS GARRISON! NOW THE WHEEL HAS TURNED, AND I, MESSALA, AM IN COMMAND!

A FEW MINUTES LATER, IN THE COMMANDER'S QUARTERS...
IN THE NAME OF THE DIVINE TIBERIUS, EMPEROR OF ROME, GREETINGS!
IN THE EMPEROR'S NAME, I PASS COMMAND OF THIS CITADEL TO THE TRIBUNE OF ROME!

A TOAST, MESSALA! TO YOUR SUCCESS, WHICH WILL NOT BE A SIMPLE TASK!
I DO NOT THINK I WILL HAVE TROUBLE, SEXTUS! YOU KNOW, I LIVED RIGHT HERE UNTIL I WAS FOURTEEN! JERUSALEM WAS MY HOME!

I THINK YOU'LL FIND THE PEOPLE HAVE CHANGED SINCE YOU WERE A BOY! THEY WON'T PAY THEIR TAXES... AND THERE'S AN IRRATIONAL RESENTMENT OF ROME!
THERE'S NOTHING NEW IN THAT!

AND THEN THERE'S RELIGION! FOR INSTANCE, THIS "MESSIAH" BUSINESS!
I KNOW! THERE WAS ONE PREDICTED WHEN I WAS A BOY! A KING OF THE JEWS... TO LEAD THEM ALL TO SOME SORT OF ANTI-ROMAN PARADISE!

THEY SAY THERE'S A CARPENTER... WHO DOES MAGIC TRICKS... MIRACLES, THEY CALL THEM!
YOU HAVE BEEN HERE TOO LONG, SEXTUS! YOU MUST GO TO CAPRI FOR A REST!

THERE'S A JEW OUTSIDE! HE WANTS TO SEE THE TRIBUNE... CALLS HIMSELF A PRINCE! PRINCE JUDAH BEN-HUR!
THEN YOU CALL HIM PRINCE, TOO! TELL HIM I'LL JOIN HIM!

THIS BEN-HUR IS THE RICHEST MAN IN JERUSALEM!
I KNOW... WE WERE FRIENDS AS BOYS!

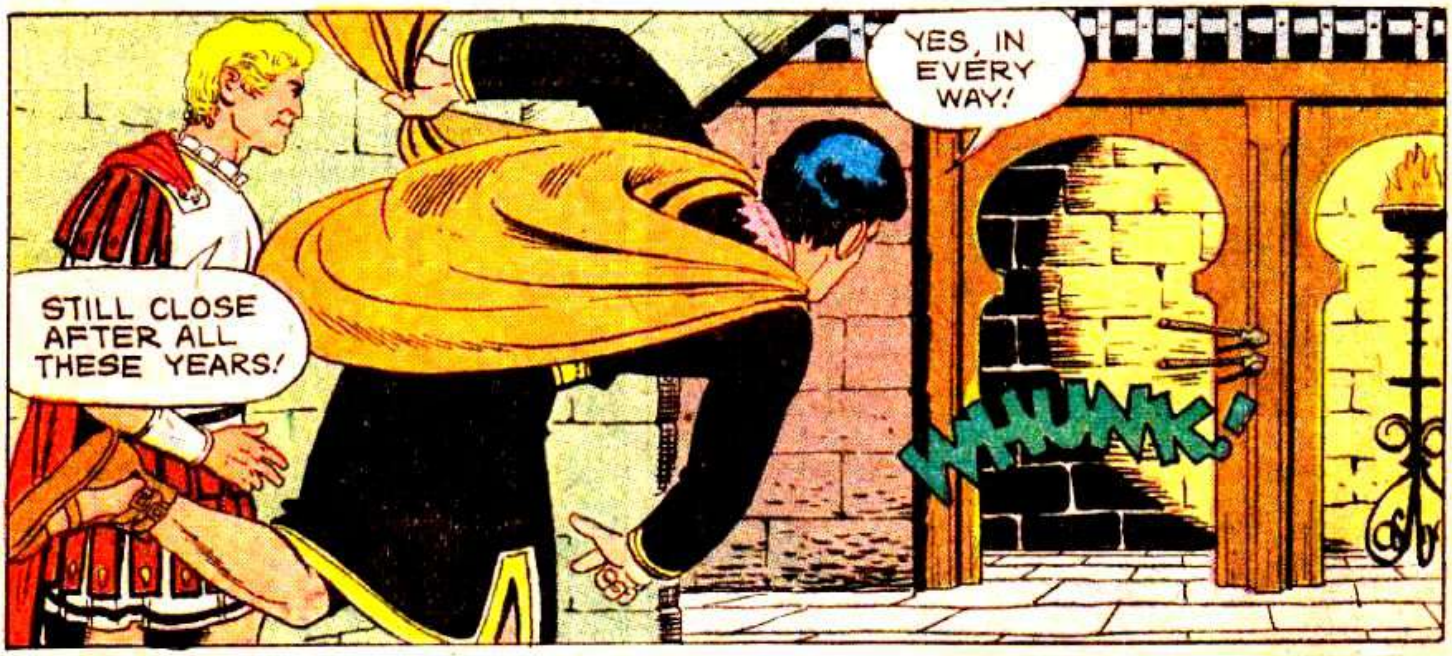
YOU AND... AND A JEW?
YES! WE WERE LIKE BROTHERS! HIS HOUSE WAS MY SECOND HOME... A GREAT FAMILY! MY FATHER AND HIS FATHER WERE FRIENDS!

JUDAH! I SAID I'D COME BACK!
AND I NEVER THOUGHT YOU WOULD! I'M GLAD, MESSALA! I AM SO GLAD!

YOUR MOTHER... AND YOUR SISTER... HOW ARE THEY?
THEY'VE TALKED OF NOTHING BUT YOU, SINCE WE LEARNED YOU WERE COMING!

CAN YOU STILL THROW A SPEAR, MY GOOD FRIEND?
STILL AS WELL AS YOU, MY FRIEND!

WELL THROWN, TRIBUNE!
THUNK!


STILL CLOSE AFTER ALL THESE YEARS!
YES, IN EVERY WAY!
WHUNK!

...EXCEPT THAT YOU ARE NOW A TRIBUNE OF ROME... AND I AM A JEW!
I'M GOING TO NEED YOUR HELP, JUDAH... AND ADVICE!

IF YOU REALLY WANT MY ADVICE... WITHDRAW THE LEGIONS... GIVE US OUR FREEDOM!
UNFORTUNATELY, THE EMPEROR IS DEVOTED TO HIS EMPIRE! AND HE'S PARTICULARLY FOND OF JUDEA!

THE NEW GOVERNOR, VALERIUS GRATUS, IS ARRIVING IN A FEW DAYS... WITH TWO MORE LEGIONS!
THEN THE RUMORS ARE TRUE?

THERE IS REBELLION IN THE WIND! IT WILL BE CRUSHED! BE WISE, JUDAH... IT IS A ROMAN WORLD! IF YOU WANT TO SURVIVE, YOU MUST BECOME PART OF IT!
I BELIEVE IN MY PEOPLE WITH ALL MY HEART!

OF COURSE YOU DO... AND YOU CAN HELP THEM! YOU ARE A MAN OF POWER... THE PEOPLE WOULD LISTEN TO YOU IF YOU SPOKE OUT AGAINST REBELLION!
I WOULD DO ANYTHING FOR YOU, MESSALA... EXCEPT BETRAY MY OWN PEOPLE! I BELIEVE IN THEIR PAST, AS WELL AS THEIR FUTURE!

FUTURE? YOU ARE A CONQUERED PEOPLE!
YOU MAY CONQUER THE LAND... YOU MAY SLAUGHTER THE PEOPLE! BUT THAT IS NOT THE END... WE WILL RISE AGAIN!

YOU LIVE ON DEAD DREAMS! YOU LIVE ON MYTHS OF THE PAST!
I THOUGHT IT WAS MY FRIEND WHO HAD RETURNED... BUT I WAS WRONG! IT IS A CONQUEROR... AN ENEMY!

JUDAH, EITHER YOU HELP ME, OR YOU OPPOSE ME! YOU HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE!
IF THAT IS THE CHOICE, MESSALA... THEN I AM AGAINST YOU!

YOU'RE A FOOL, JUDAH! REMEMBER, I BEGGED YOU!
MESSALA...!

LATER, AT THE HOUSE OF BEN-HUR ...
MY SON! WHERE IS YOUR FRIEND, MESSALA? WE WERE EXPECTING HIM TO HAVE DINNER WITH US!
I KNOW, MOTHER... BUT...WE QUARRELED!

HE WANTED TO USE ME! HE WANTED TO USE MY FRIENDSHIP TO BETRAY OUR PEOPLE!
BUT, JUDAH... A FRIENDSHIP LIKE YOURS...YOU ALWAYS SAID NOTHING COULD CHANGE IT!

I WAS WRONG, TIRZAH, MY SISTER! WHERE I ONCE HAD A FRIEND, I NOW HAVE AN ENEMY! THEY ARE THE MASTERS AND WE ARE THE SLAVES! THAT IS THE NATURE OF THINGS!

FROM THE PARAPETS OF THEIR HOME, BEN-HUR AND HIS SISTER WATCH THE PARADE LED BY THE NEW ROMAN GOVERNOR...

THE TILE WAS LOOSE... I... IT SLIPPED WHEN I TOUCHED IT!
TIRZAH, IT'S ALL RIGHT! YOU COULDN'T HELP IT! IT WAS AN ACCIDENT!

WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S HAPPENED?
A TILE FELL... AND STRUCK THE GOVERNOR! IT WASN'T MY FAULT... IT WAS...
SHE'S NOT TO SAY ANYTHING! YOU HEAR ME, TIRZAH? SAY NOTHING!

THERE'S THE MAN! ARREST HIM! ARREST ALL OF THEM!
WAIT! IT WAS AN ACCIDENT! I... PUT MY HAND ON THE LEDGE... A TILE WAS LOOSE! IT GAVE WAY!

MESSALA, IN THE NAME OF GOD! TELL THEM IT WAS AN ACCIDENT!
HE HAS ADMITTED IT WAS HIS HAND THAT TOUCHED THE TILE!

TAKE THEM TO THE CELLS! ALL OF THEM!
MESSALA...LET THEM GO! THEY HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT! NOTHING!!
WE LOVED YOU! WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THE PAST?

THE NEXT DAY...
TRIBUNE, PLEASE! I MUST SPEAK TO YOU! I AM STEWARD OF THE HOUSE OF HUR!
LET THEM THROUGH, SENTRY!

OLD SIMONIDES! I REMEMBER YOU WELL! IS THIS YOUR DAUGHTER, ESTHER?
YES, TRIBUNE! WE WERE ON OUR WAY TO ANTIOCH WHEN WE HEARD WHAT HAPPENED! JUDAH BEN-HUR COULD NOT HAVE DONE THIS THING!

THE PRISONERS HAVE BEEN SENTENCED!
OH, NO... NO... NO! HE'S INNOCENT! I KNOW HE'S INNOCENT! WHAT IS GOING TO BE DONE?

THAT IS OUR CONCERN! DRUSUS... THIS MAN HAD BETTER BE KEPT HERE UNTIL WE'VE TIME TO QUESTION HIM!
TRIBUNE! PLEASE, LISTEN...!

AT THAT MOMENT, IN THE DUNGEON...
COME! YOU GO TO TIRUS!
AM I TO DIE IN THE GALLEYS WITHOUT A TRIAL? MY MOTHER? MY SISTER? WHERE ARE THEY?

I CAN TELL YOU NOTHING! I—UGHH!
THEN I WILL FIND OUT FOR MYSELF...!

THE PRISONER ESCAPES! STOP HIM!

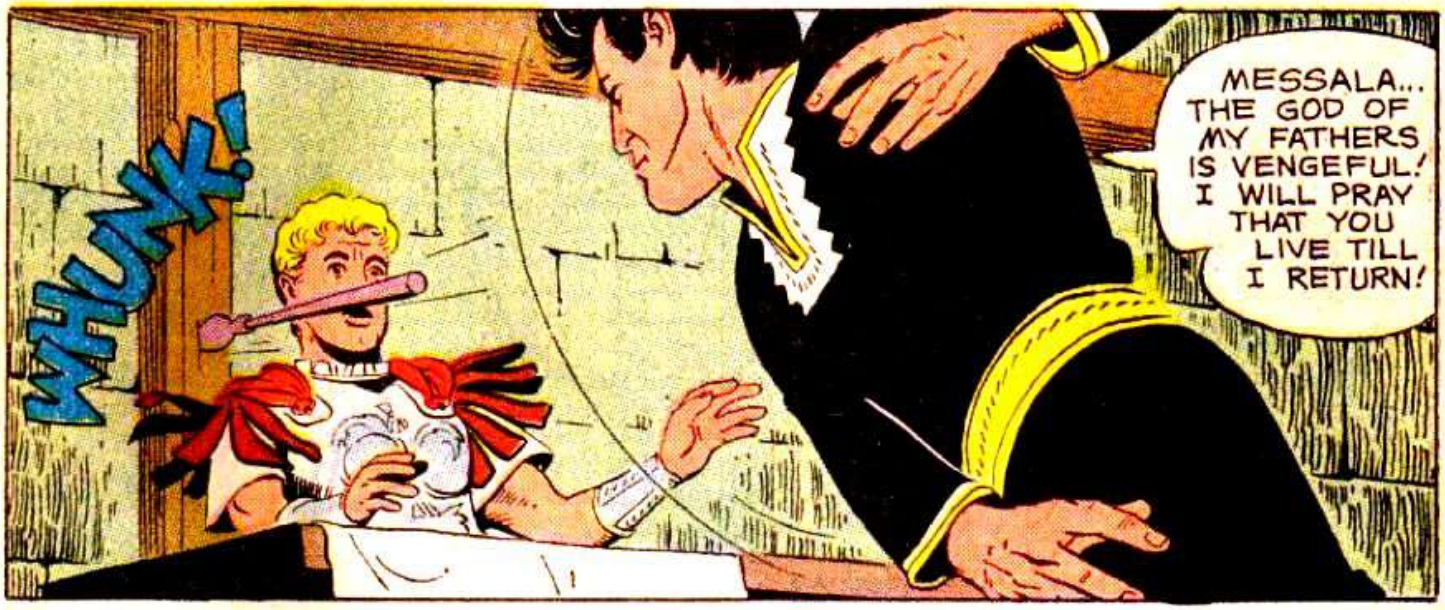
OOF!

A MOMENT LATER, BEN-HUR REACHES MESSALA'S QUARTERS...
CALL OFF YOUR DOGS, MESSALA! I MUST SPEAK WITH YOU!
WHA...? ALL RIGHT! GUARDS, BACK TO YOUR POSTS!

WHERE ARE MY MOTHER AND SISTER?
HERE, WITHIN THESE WALLS! THE GOVERNOR IS RECOVERING! THEY WON'T DIE! OF COURSE THEY WILL BE SENTENCED, BUT...

IS IT POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO DO THIS, MESSALA... TO US... A FAMILY YOU'VE KNOWN... LOVED? PLEASE DON'T... NOT TO THEM!
I ASKED YOU TO SHARE THE FUTURE WITH ME! YOU REFUSED!

BUT I DIDN'T TRY TO KILL THE GOVERNOR! YOU KNOW THAT! I'M NOT MAD! I'M NOT A MURDERER!
OF COURSE! BUT WE NEED AN EXAMPLE! WE NEED YOU!



BEN-HUR AND OTHERS ARE MADE TO MARCH THROUGH THE HOT JUDEAN DESERT, HEADING FOR THE COAST...

FINALLY THEY REACH A SMALL DESERT CITY...
YOU TWO BOYS! WATER FOR THE PRISONERS!

NO WATER FOR THAT ONE! HE IS A SPECIAL PRISONER!

YOU THERE! I SAID NO WATER FOR THAT PRISONER!

BUT SUDDENLY THE SOLDIER FINDS HIMSELF ROOTED TO THE SPOT, UNABLE TO MOVE AS THE YOUNG MAN GAZES AT HIM...

WHO...IS THAT WITH THE PRISONER?
HE IS THE SON OF JOSEPH, THE CARPENTER OF NAZARETH!

ALL RIGHT, ON YOUR FEET! LET'S GET MOVING! SOON YOU WILL ALL BE SICK OF THE SIGHT OF WATER!

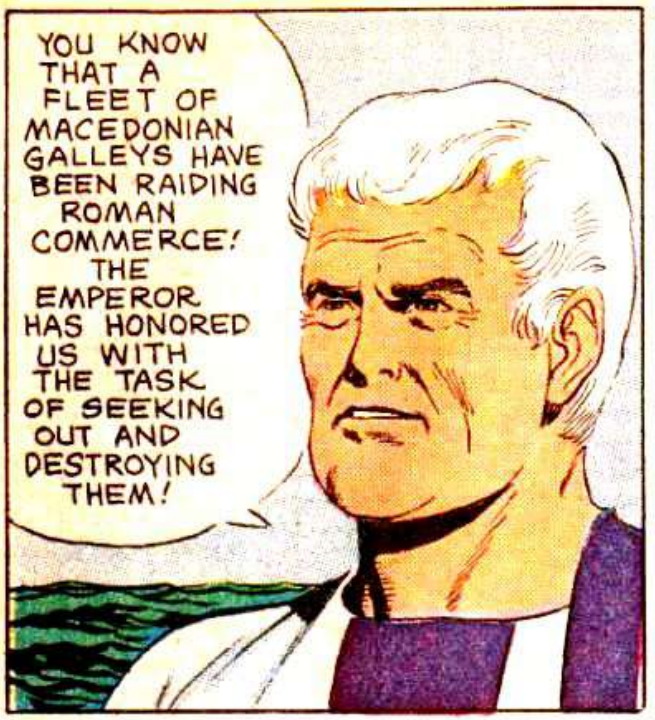
FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS, BEN-HUR, KNOWN ONLY AS NUMBER FORTY, SERVES ABOARD THE DREADED ROMAN GALLEYS...
THE CONSUL'S BARGE APPROACHES! BE READY TO RAISE OARS...!

INSIDE THE GALLEY...
KEEP UP THE TEMPO, SLAVES... OR FEEL THE LASH OF THE WHIP!
TONK-TONK-TONK.

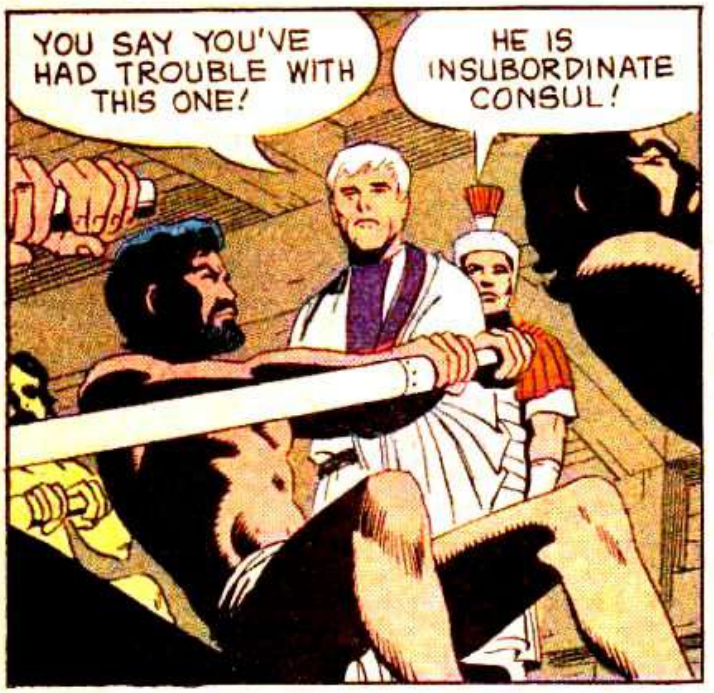
CRACK!
BEAT US, ROMAN DOG! YOU WILL PAY FOR EVERY STINGING BLOW!

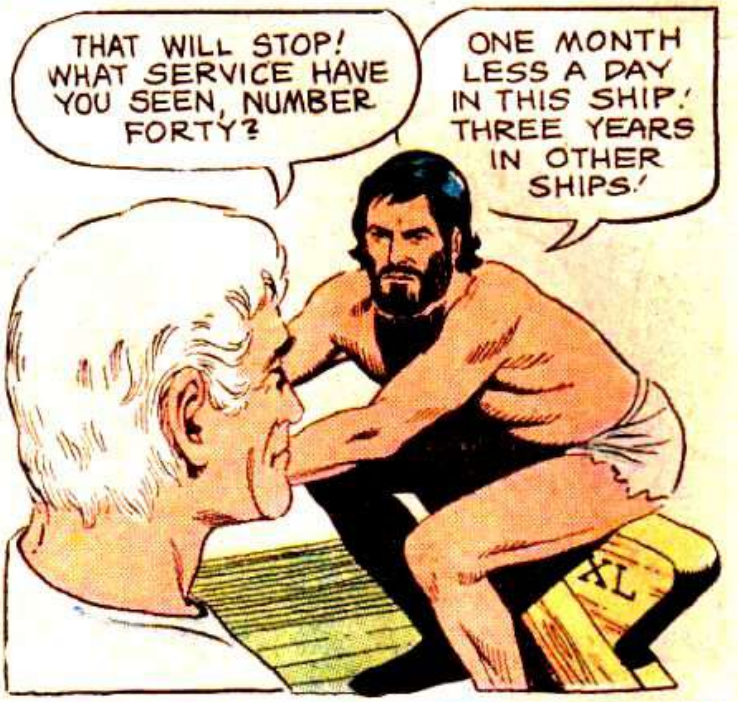
AN IMPERIAL BARGE... THE NEW COMMANDER, QUINTUS ARRIUS, I HEARD THEM SAY!
ARRIUS...! SLAVES DON'T LIVE LONG UNDER ARRIUS!

ON DECK...
WELCOME ABOARD, QUINTUS ARRIUS! WE ARE HONORED TO SERVE UNDER YOU!
THANK YOU! WE HAVE MUCH TO DO!

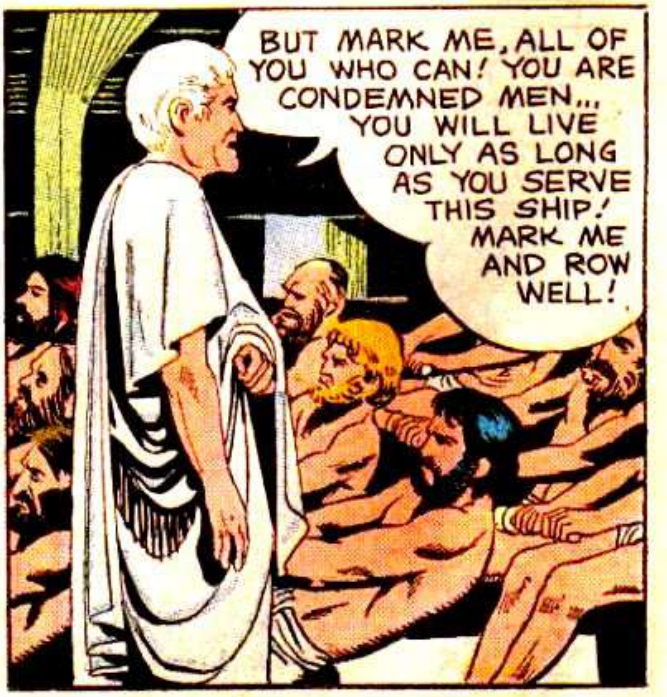

YOU KNOW THAT A FLEET OF MACEDONIAN GALLEYS HAVE BEEN RAIDING ROMAN COMMERCE! THE EMPEROR HAS HONORED US WITH THE TASK OF SEEKING OUT AND DESTROYING THEM!

THE SMOKE IS TO THE EAST! THE OMEN IS GOOD! NOW I WILL INSPECT BELOW!
VERY WELL, CONSUL!

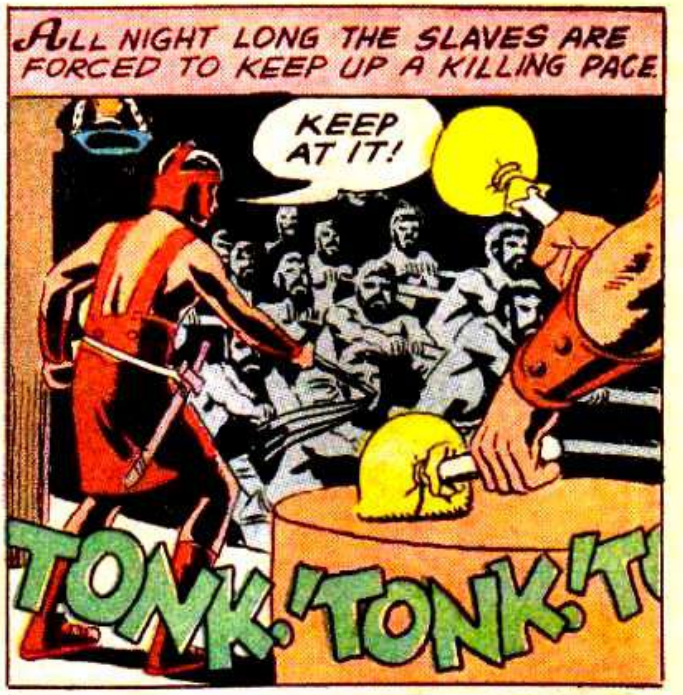

YOU SAY YOU'VE HAD TROUBLE WITH THIS ONE!
HE IS INSUBORDINATE CONSUL!

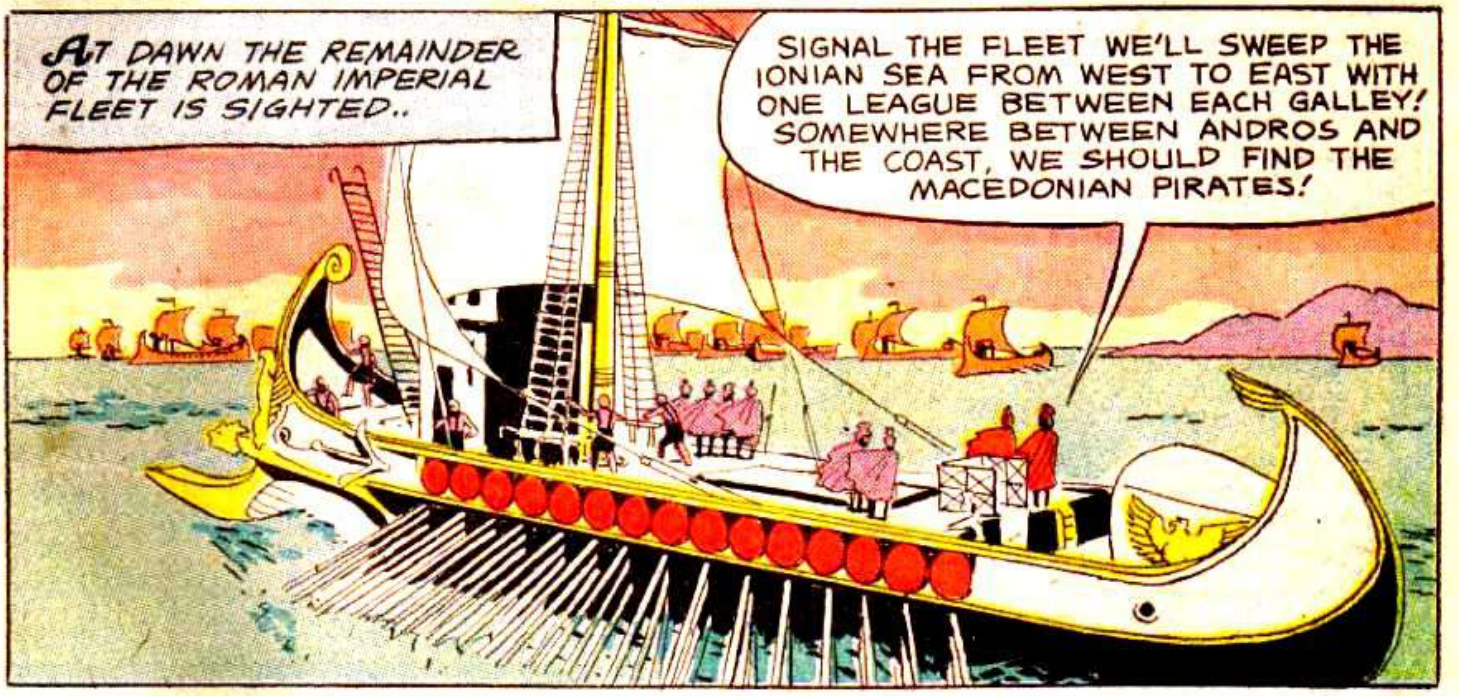

THAT WILL STOP! WHAT SERVICE HAVE YOU SEEN, NUMBER FORTY?
ONE MONTH LESS A DAY IN THIS SHIP! THREE YEARS IN OTHER SHIPS!
XL

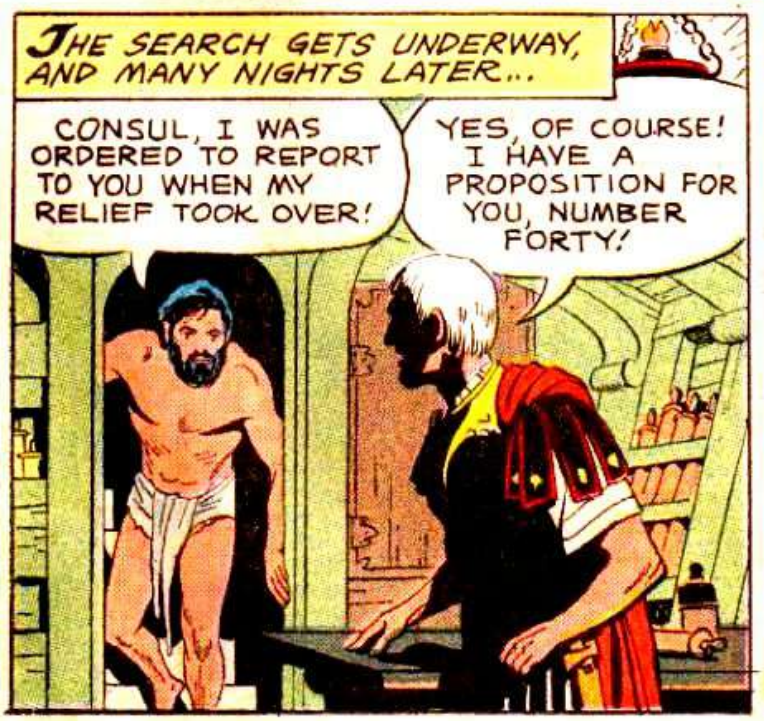
THREE YEARS! MOST MEN DON'T LAST ONE! YOU HAVE THE SPIRIT TO FIGHT BACK! YOUR EYES ARE FULL OF HATE, NUMBER FORTY! HATE KEEPS A MAN ALIVE!

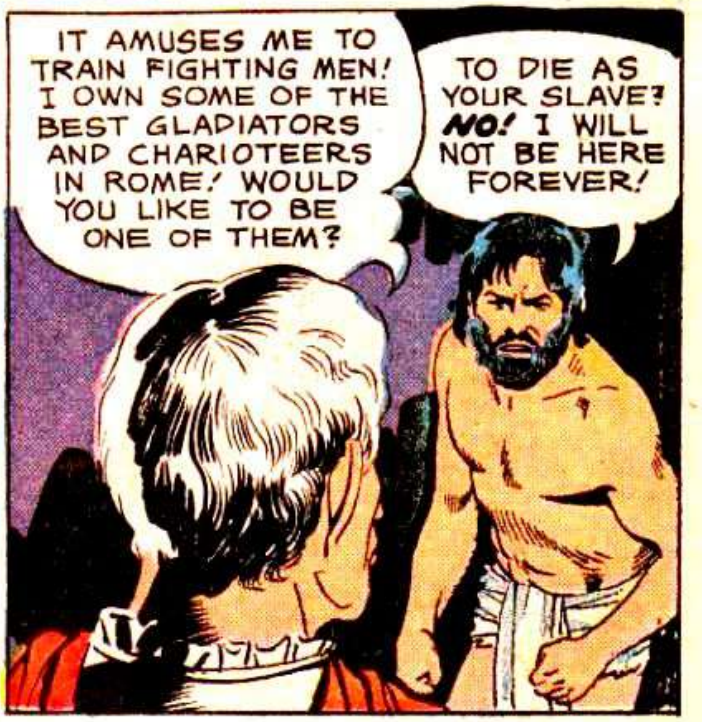

BUT MARK ME, ALL OF YOU WHO CAN! YOU ARE CONDEMNED MEN... YOU WILL LIVE ONLY AS LONG AS YOU SERVE THIS SHIP! MARK ME AND ROW WELL!

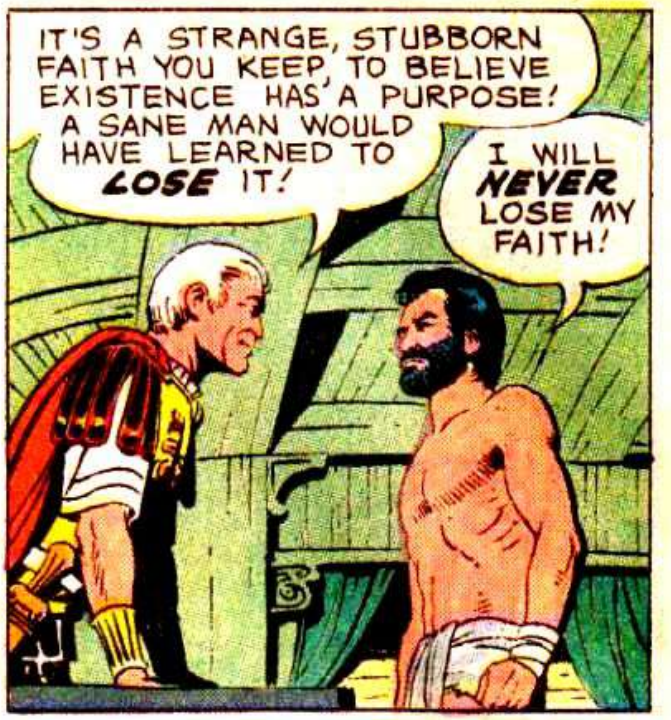
WE JOIN OUR FLEET AT THE STRAITS OF MESSINA! SET YOUR COURSE PAST THE CAPONELLAN CAPE! WE MUST BE THERE BY DAWN!
YES, CONSUL!


ALL NIGHT LONG THE SLAVES ARE FORCED TO KEEP UP A KILLING PACE.
KEEP AT IT!
TONK! TONK! T

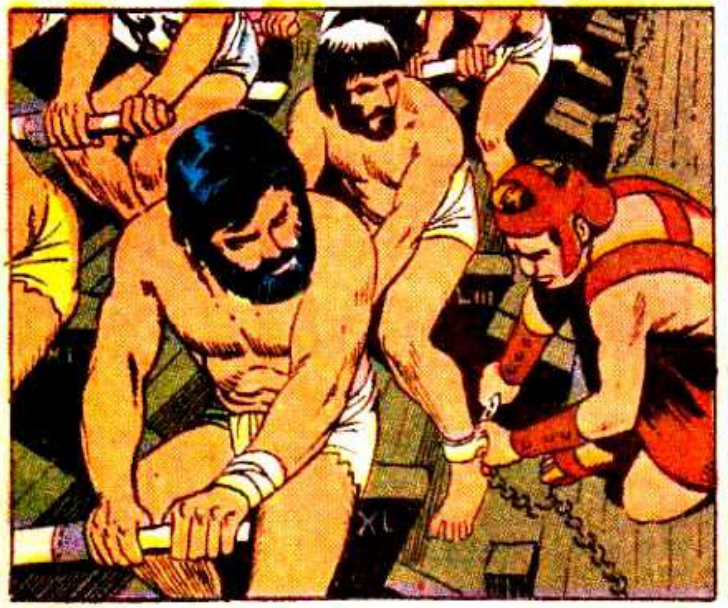

AT DAWN THE REMAINDER OF THE ROMAN IMPERIAL FLEET IS SIGHTED..
SIGNAL THE FLEET WE'LL SWEEP THE IONIAN SEA FROM WEST TO EAST WITH ONE LEAGUE BETWEEN EACH GALLEY! SOMEWHERE BETWEEN ANDROS AND THE COAST, WE SHOULD FIND THE MACEDONIAN PIRATES!


THE SEARCH GETS UNDERWAY, AND MANY NIGHTS LATER...
CONSUL, I WAS ORDERED TO REPORT TO YOU WHEN MY RELIEF TOOK OVER!
YES, OF COURSE! I HAVE A PROPOSITION FOR YOU, NUMBER FORTY!


IT AMUSES ME TO TRAIN FIGHTING MEN! I OWN SOME OF THE BEST GLADIATORS AND CHARIOTEERS IN ROME! WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE ONE OF THEM?
TO DIE AS YOUR SLAVE? NO! I WILL NOT BE HERE FOREVER!



BELOW, ROMAN GUARDS CHAIN THE SLAVE ROWERS TO THEIR OARS...

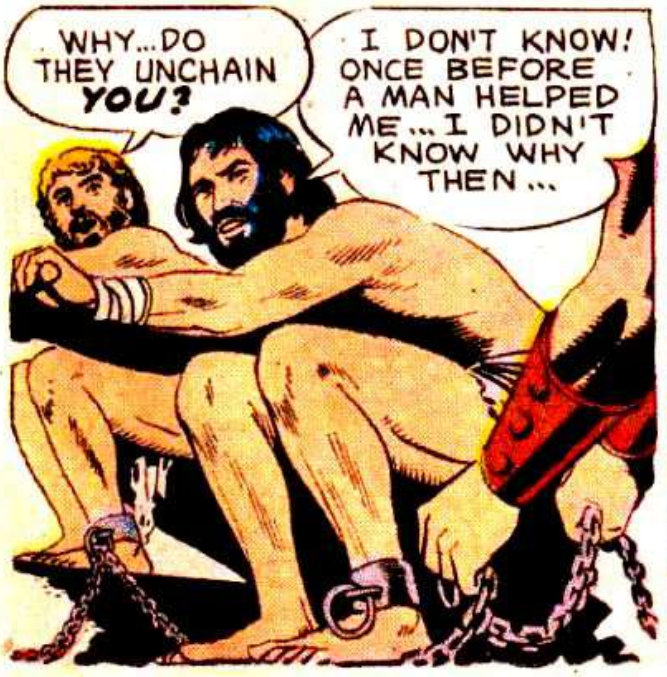


WHILE ON THE DECK, THE ROMANS PREPARE FOR BATTLE...

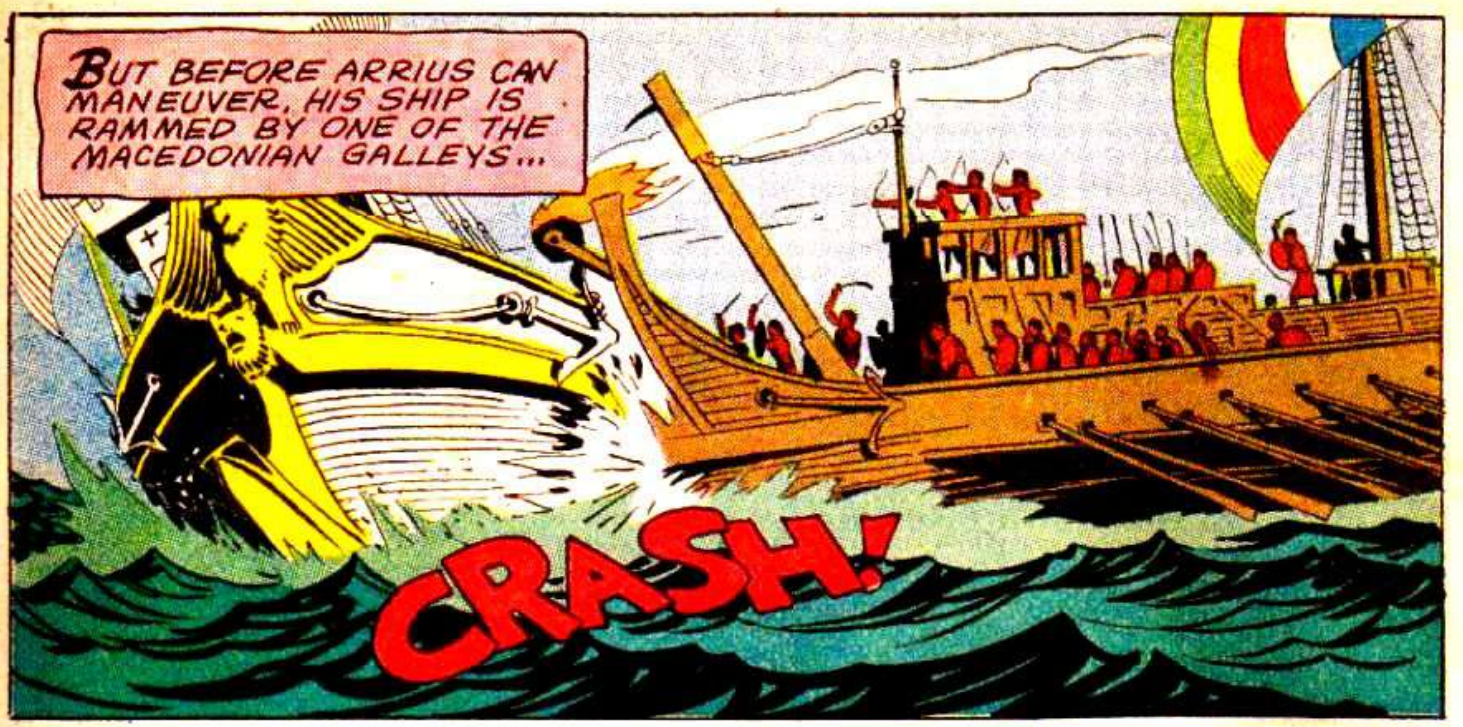
AND THEN THE TWO GREAT FLEETS COME TOGETHER...
CRASH!

THERE ARE MACEDONIAN GALLEYS ALL AROUND US!
WE'RE GOING TO DIE! THEY'RE GOING TO RAM US!

GUARD! UNCHAIN NUMBER FORTY!
YES, CONSUL!


WHY...DO THEY UNCHAIN YOU?
I DON'T KNOW! ONCE BEFORE A MAN HELPED ME... I DIDN'T KNOW WHY THEN...

RAMMING SPEED! RAMMING SPEED! PREPARE TO BOARD!


BUT BEFORE ARRIUS CAN MANEUVER, HIS SHIP IS RAMMED BY ONE OF THE MACEDONIAN GALLEYS...
CRASH!

THE MACEDONIANS SWARM OVER THE ROMANS...
CLANG!

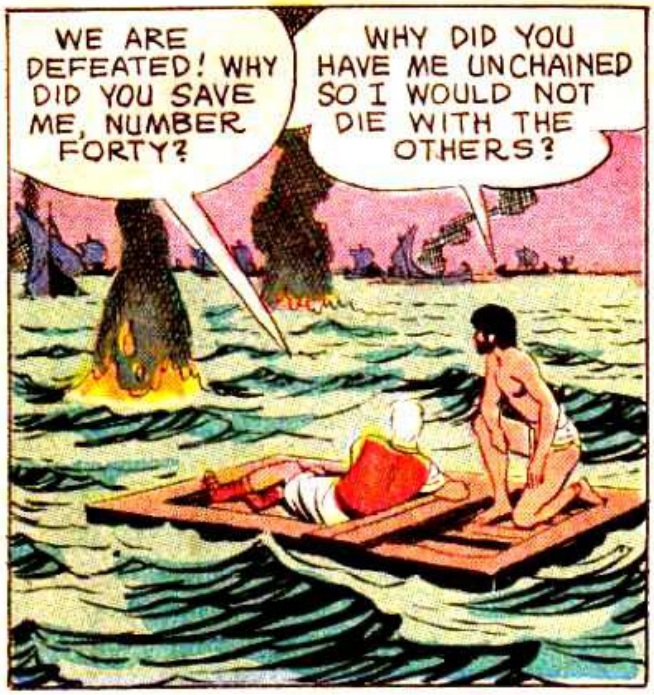
WHILE BELOW, TERROR REIGNS...

YOU'RE FINISHED, ROMAN CONSUL!

A-A-AHH!

HELP! HELP!!

BEN-HUR PULLS THE CONSUL TO A PIECE OF FLOATING WRECKAGE...


WE ARE DEFEATED! WHY DID YOU SAVE ME, NUMBER FORTY?
WHY DID YOU HAVE ME UNCHAINED SO I WOULD NOT DIE WITH THE OTHERS?

I... DON'T KNOW! SOMETHING COMPELLED ME! WHAT IS YOUR NAME, FORTY?
JUDAH BEN-HUR, PRINCE OF THE HOUSE OF HUR!

THREE DAYS LATER...
A SHIP! IT IS A ROMAN SAIL!
BETTER FOR BOTH OF US IF IT WERE THE ENEMY! MY DEATH... YOUR FREEDOM!

WELCOME, CONSUL! WE HAD GIVEN UP HOPE! YOU LOST TEN SHIPS, BUT THE DAY OF THE MACEDONIANS IS OVER!
YOU MEAN... IT WAS A VICTORY?

COMPLETE! GREAT JOY FOR THE EMPEROR WHEN HE KNOWS HE CAN CELEBRATE YOUR TRIUMPH... NOT MOURN YOUR MEMORY!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

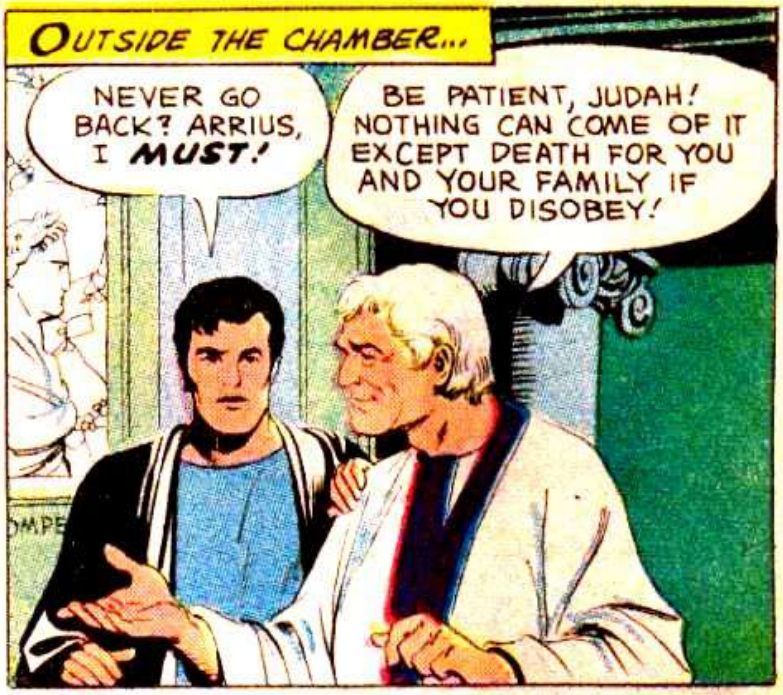
IT WOULD SEEM THAT IN HIS EAGERNESS TO SAVE YOU, YOUR GOD HAS ALSO SAVED THE ROMAN FLEET! BUT I'M AFRAID IT IS ONLY YOU I CAN REWARD!
I WANT ONLY MY FREEDOM!

A FEW WEEKS LATER, IN ROME...
DIVINE MAJESTY... IF YOU WILL NOTICE THE MAN RIDING BESIDE ARRIUS... HE IS THE ONE WHO TRIED TO KILL YOUR GOVERNOR IN JUDEA!
DID HE INDEED? HE TRIES TO KILL A ROMAN GOVERNOR, YET HE SAVES A ROMAN CONSUL! SOMEWHAT UNPREDICTABLE AND INCONSISTENT!

IN THE AUDIENCE CHAMBER OF TIBERIUS, THE EMPEROR...
CONSUL, THE JUSTICE OF ROME CANNOT BE DISPUTED! HE HAS BEEN CONVICTED!
DIVINE EMPEROR, I AM CONVINCED THAT NO ATTACK ON THE GOVERNOR WAS INTENDED!

I UNDERSTAND YOUR FEELING, ARRIUS... AND THEREFORE I GIVE JUDAH BEN-HUR TO YOU AS YOUR SLAVE, TO DO WITH AS YOU LIKE!
THANK YOU, DIVINE EMPEROR!

IN ROME, OF COURSE! HE IS NEVER TO RETURN TO JUDEA! SUCH IS THE WILL OF THE SENATE AND THE PEOPLE OF ROME!


OUTSIDE THE CHAMBER...
NEVER GO BACK? ARRIUS, I MUST!
BE PATIENT, JUDAH! NOTHING CAN COME OF IT EXCEPT DEATH FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY IF YOU DISOBEY!

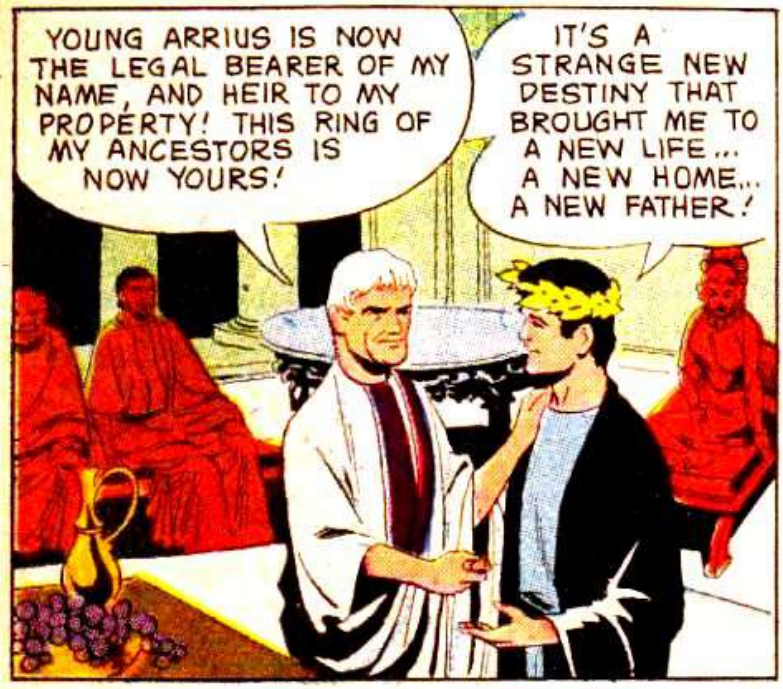
BUT I HAVE REASON TO THINK THAT THE EMPEROR MEANS TO REPLACE GRATUS BEFORE ANOTHER YEAR! THAT SHOULD GIVE YOU CAUSE FOR HOPE!
I FEAR THAT I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO WAIT!

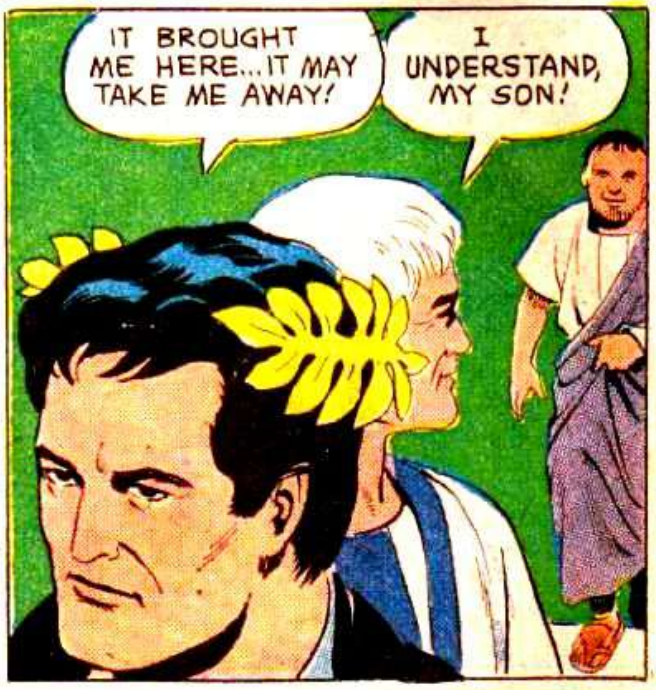
MEANWHILE, GIVE ME TIME TO HELP YOU! I SHALL HOPE THAT ROME WILL HOLD SOMETHING OF GOOD FOR YOU!
I THANK YOU, ARRIUS! YOU HAVE DONE MUCH FOR ME ALREADY! I HOPE IN SOME WAY TO BE ABLE TO REPAY YOU!

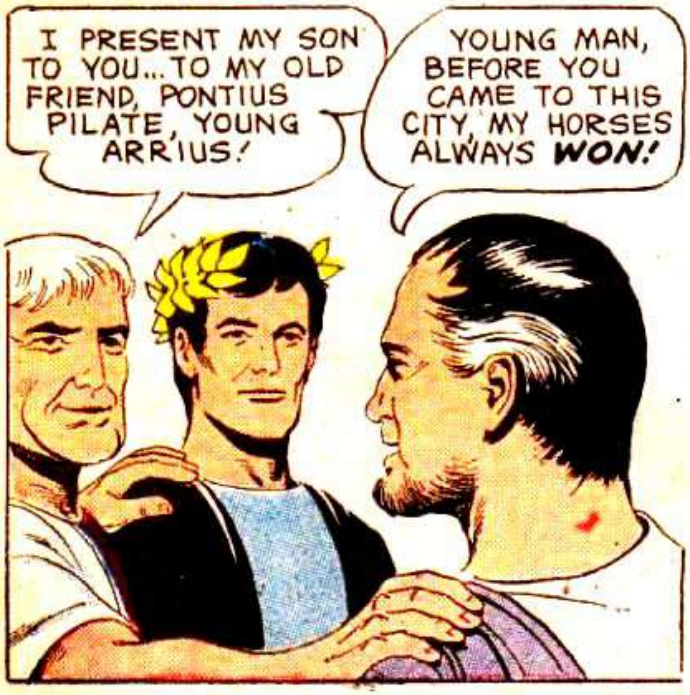
YOU FORGET, JUDAH, THAT I OWE YOU MY LIFE! BUT THERE IS ONE THING I WILL ASK... THAT YOU BECOME MY CHARIOTEER!
OF COURSE, ARRIUS! IT WILL BE MY PLEASURE!

FOR THE NEXT YEAR, BEN-HUR DROVE IN MANY EXCITING CHARIOT RACES AND EARNED AN ENVIABLE REPUTATION...

AND THEN, ONE EVENING AT THE HOME OF ARRIUS...
FIVE TIMES BEN-HUR HAS DRIVEN MY HORSES TO VICTORY! FOR THAT, THIS WREATH OF GOLD! I KNOW HIM AS ONE WHO STANDS IN PLACE OF MY SON WHO DIED... I HAVE THE LOVE AND PRIDE IN A SON'S ACHIEVEMENTS WHICH I THOUGHT I SHOULD NEVER HAVE AGAIN!


YOUNG ARRIUS IS NOW THE LEGAL BEARER OF MY NAME, AND HEIR TO MY PROPERTY! THIS RING OF MY ANCESTORS IS NOW YOURS!
IT'S A STRANGE NEW DESTINY THAT BROUGHT ME TO A NEW LIFE... A NEW HOME... A NEW FATHER!


IT BROUGHT ME HERE... IT MAY TAKE ME AWAY!
I UNDERSTAND, MY SON!


I PRESENT MY SON TO YOU... TO MY OLD FRIEND, PONTIUS PILATE, YOUNG ARRIUS!
YOUNG MAN, BEFORE YOU CAME TO THIS CITY, MY HORSES ALWAYS WON!

THEY'RE MAGNIFICENT HORSES, SIR! EXTREMELY SWIFT!
BUT NOT SWIFT ENOUGH TO DEFEAT YOU! NOW, GOOD NIGHT! THE EMPEROR HAS CALLED ME FOR AN AUDIENCE TOMORROW... I FEAR HE HAS A NEW ASSIGNMENT FOR ME!

THE NEXT DAY...
MY SON! PONTIUS PILATE HAS BEEN MADE GOVERNOR OF JUDEA! DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS?
YES! I WILL RETURN TO JUDEA! I MUST!!

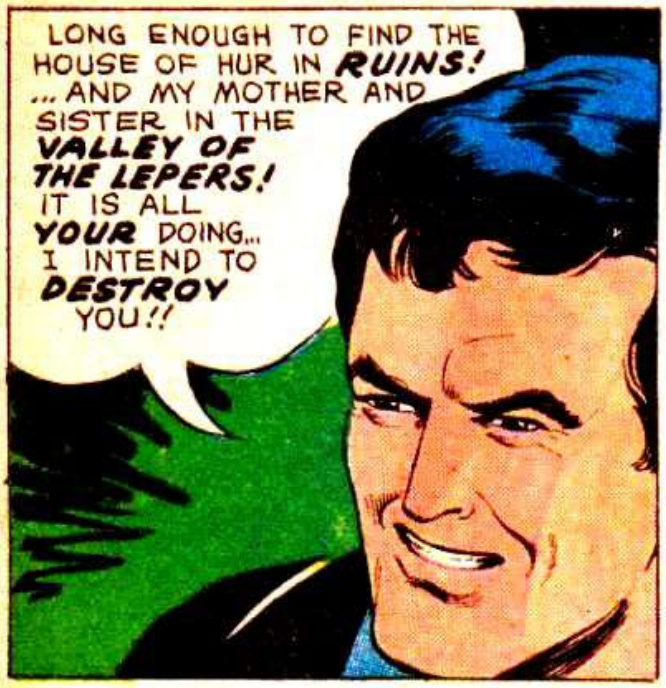
THE RING OF MY ANCESTORS WILL GIVE YOU PROTECTION FROM TRIBUNE MESSALA! WILL ROME SEE YOU AGAIN?
I FEAR NOT, BUT I SHALL REMEMBER THE PART OF MY LIFE WHICH YOU HAVE MADE FOR ME! GOOD-BYE, MY GOOD FRIEND... MY FATHER!

WEEKS LATER, IN JERUSALEM...
FOR THE TRIBUNE, WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF THE SON OF ARRIUS! HE WAITS YOUR PLEASURE!
I'VE HEARD OF YOUNG ARRIUS! HE IS THE CHAMPION OF THE GREAT CIRCUS! BRING HIM TO ME!

IT'S BEAUTIFUL!... AND FROM A MAN I'VE NEVER MET!
YOU ARE WRONG, MESSALA!

JUDAH! BY THE GODS! BY WHAT MAGIC DO YOU BEAR THE NAME OF A CONSUL OF ROME?
YOU WERE THE MAGICIAN, MESSALA! YOU CONDEMNED ME TO THE GALLEYS!

WHEN MY SHIP WAS SUNK, I SAVED THE CONSUL'S LIFE! YOU KNOW HIS SEAL! NOW I'VE COME BACK, AS I PROMISED I WOULD!
YOU... HAVE BEEN IN JERUSALEM LONG...?


LONG ENOUGH TO FIND THE HOUSE OF HUR IN RUINS! ...AND MY MOTHER AND SISTER IN THE VALLEY OF THE LEPERS! IT IS ALL YOUR DOING... I INTEND TO DESTROY YOU!!

I DO NOT FEAR DEATH! IF IT IS A BATTLE YOU WANT, YOU SHALL HAVE IT!
DEATH MEANS NOTHING TO A ROMAN! WHAT YOU DREAD IS DISGRACE AND HUMILIATION! AND THAT LOT WILL BE YOURS WHEN WE MEET IN THE CIRCUS!

THE CIRCUS! YOU MEAN TO DRIVE AGAINST MY BLACK DEVILS?
I AM DRIVING THE WHITE ARABIANS OF SHEIK ILDERIM! I WILL GRIND YOU INTO DEFEAT!

ONE OF US WILL NOT LEAVE THE CIRCUS ALIVE! GOOD-BYE, TRIBUNE!
THAT ONE WILL BE YOU, MY FRIEND! I MIGHT HAVE A FEW SURPRISES FOR YOU!

THE DAY OF THE CIRCUS DAWNS BRIGHT AND CLEAR...
LOOK!! THE ROMAN PIG DRIVES A GREEK CHARIOT! THOSE HUBS CAN CUT YOU TO PIECES!
EVIL BEGETS EVIL!

THIS IS THE DAY, BEN-HUR! IT IS BETWEEN US, NOW!
YES...THIS IS THE DAY!

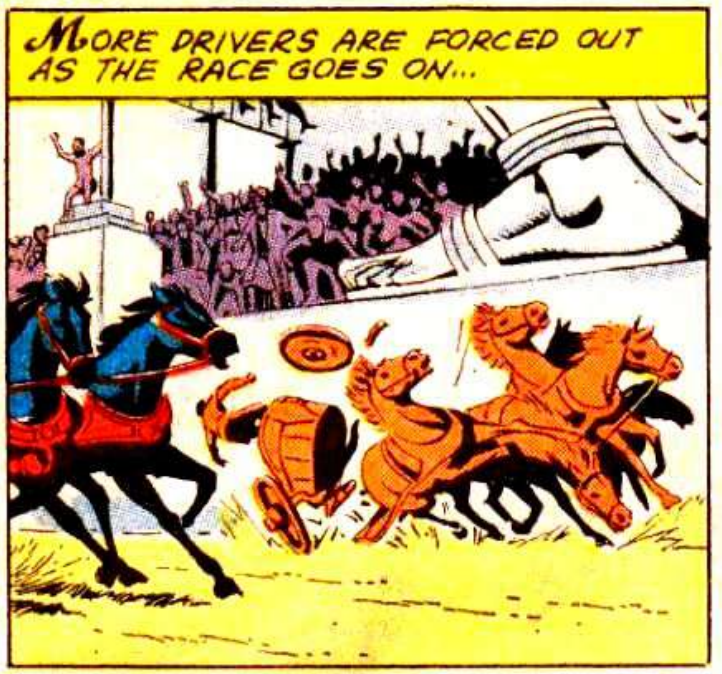
PONTIUS PILATE, THE NEW GOVERNOR OF JUDEA, SPEAKS...
CITIZENS, I BRING YOU GREETINGS FROM THE DIVINE TIBERIUS! TO HIS GLORY AND THE GLORY OF ROME WE DEDICATE THESE GAMES! LET US PROCEED!

THE SIGNAL IS GIVEN AND THE RACE IS ON...
HAIL JUPITER! GIVE ME VICTORY!!

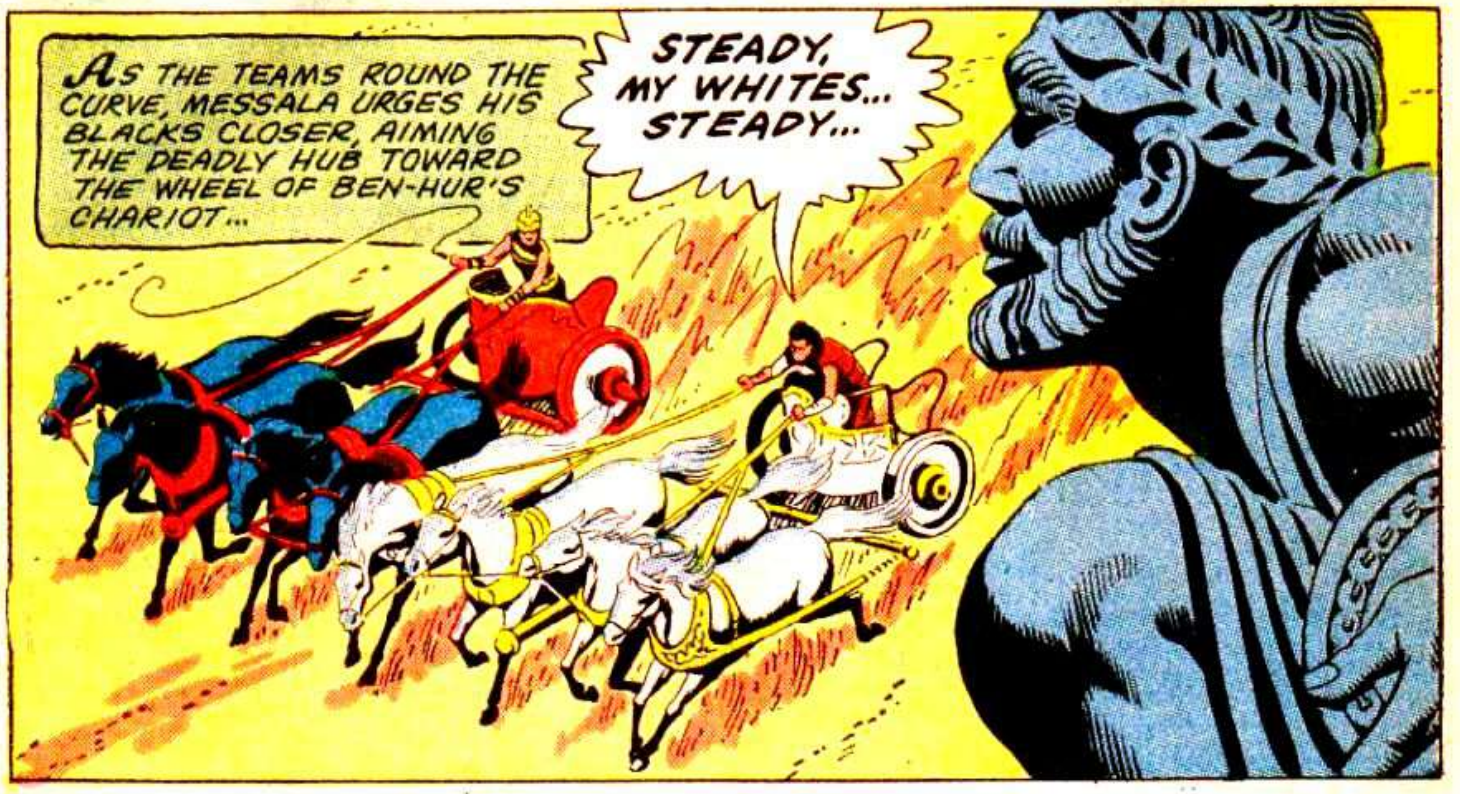
MESSALA WHIPS HIS TEAM MERCILESSLY TO GAIN THE LEAD IN THE EARLY RUNNING...
CRACK!

WHILE BEN-HUR BIDES HIS TIME...
GOOD STEEDS! STEADY, FELLOWS!

BEN-HUR BARELY MANAGES TO AVOID THE MIX-UP... BUT OTHERS ARE NOT SO LUCKY...


MORE DRIVERS ARE FORCED OUT AS THE RACE GOES ON...

BEN-HUR MAKES A BID TO OVERTAKE MESSALA...
NOW, FELLOWS! GO...GO...!!

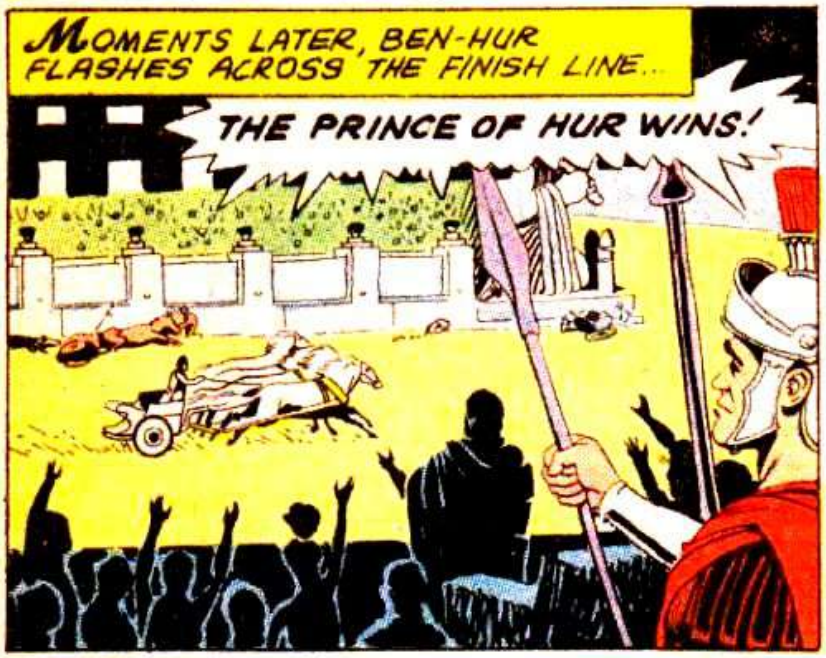

AS THE TEAMS ROUND THE CURVE, MESSALA URGES HIS BLACKS CLOSER, AIMING THE DEADLY HUB TOWARD THE WHEEL OF BEN-HUR'S CHARIOT...
STEADY, MY WHITES... STEADY...

FALL BACK, JUDAH... OR I WILL DESTROY YOU!
NEVER, TRIBUNE! I RIDE FOR THE PEOPLE OF JUDEA!

THE TWO WHEELS GRIND TOGETHER...
RR-RRRRRR-R!

BUT THIS TIME...
CRACK!

THE ROMAN TRIBUNE FALLS TO DEFEAT... DISGRACE... AND DEATH!


MOMENTS LATER, BEN-HUR FLASHES ACROSS THE FINISH LINE...
THE PRINCE OF HUR WINS!

THE PRINCE OF HUR HAS WON A GREATER PRIZE THAN HE KNOWS!
THANK YOU, GOVERNOR!

BUT LATER...
THERE IT IS, MESSALA! THERE IS THE HEART OF MY VICTORY! IT HAS STOPPED BEATING! THE WORLD YOU'VE ESCAPED FROM, MESSALA... THE WORLD I STILL HAVE TO LIVE IN... A WORLD OF VIOLENCE AND HATE... WHAT IS THE ANSWER?

HE IS THE ANSWER, JUDAH... AND HE IS HERE! I HAVE FOUND HIM! THE CHILD HAS BECOME A MAN... THE MAN, I KNOW IT NOW, IS THE SON OF GOD!
BALTHASAR...!

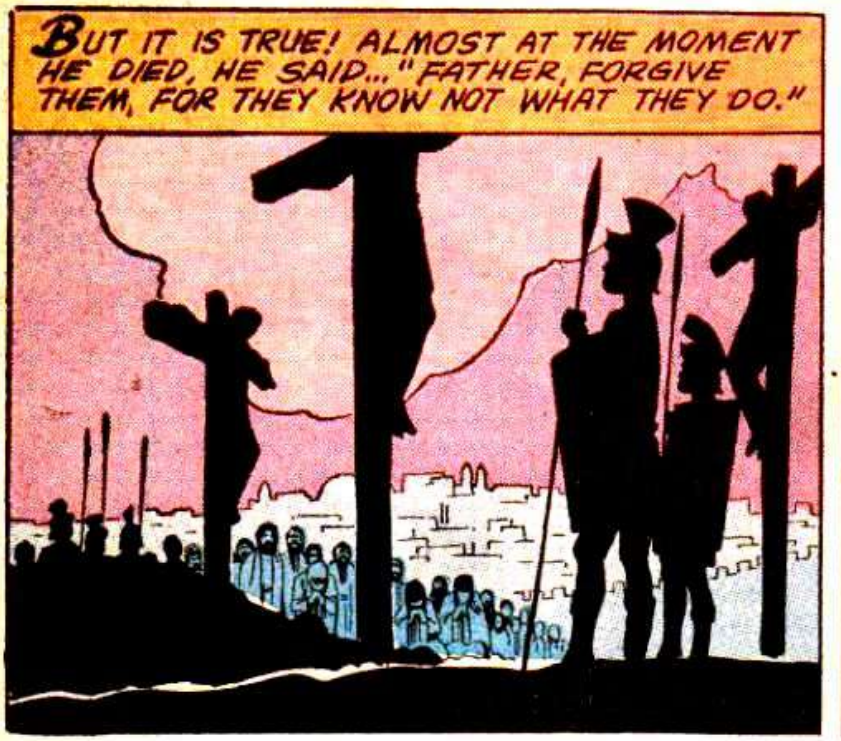
GO TO YOUR HOME... ESTHER IS THERE! SHE WILL TELL YOU THE TRUTH THAT WILL ONE DAY SWEEP THE WORLD!

AT THE HOUSE OF HUR...
YES, JUDAH, I HAVE HEARD HIM! HIS VOICE TRAVELED WITH SUCH A STILL PURPOSE, IT WAS MORE THAN A VOICE! A MAN MORE THAN A MAN!

HE SAID... "BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL, FOR THEY SHALL OBTAIN MERCY. BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS, FOR THEY SHALL BE CALLED THE CHILDREN OF GOD."

BUT MY MOTHER... MY SISTER... CAN THEY BE CALLED CHILDREN OF GOD... THERE, IN THE VALLEY OF LEPERS?
GET THEM! LET THEM HEAR THE MAN FROM NAZARETH! HE HAS A VOICE SO STRONG IT WILL GIVE THEM LIFE AGAIN!

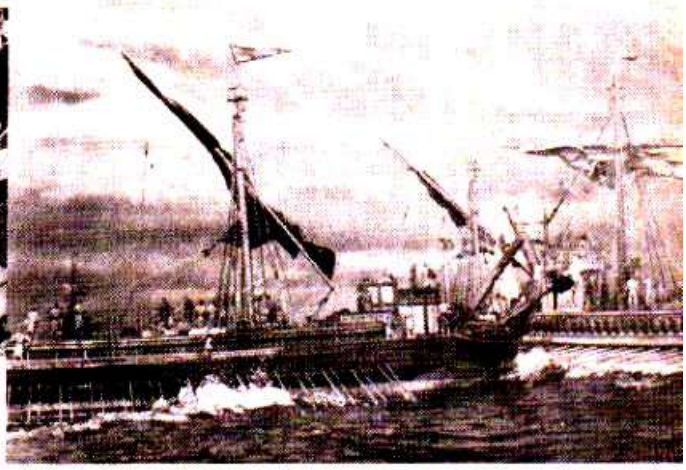
COME, WE WILL FIND THEM! IN JERUSALEM, IF THEY CAN SEE THIS MAN FROM NAZARETH, THEY WILL KNOW THAT LIFE IS MORE THAN THE VALLEY OF THE DEAD!

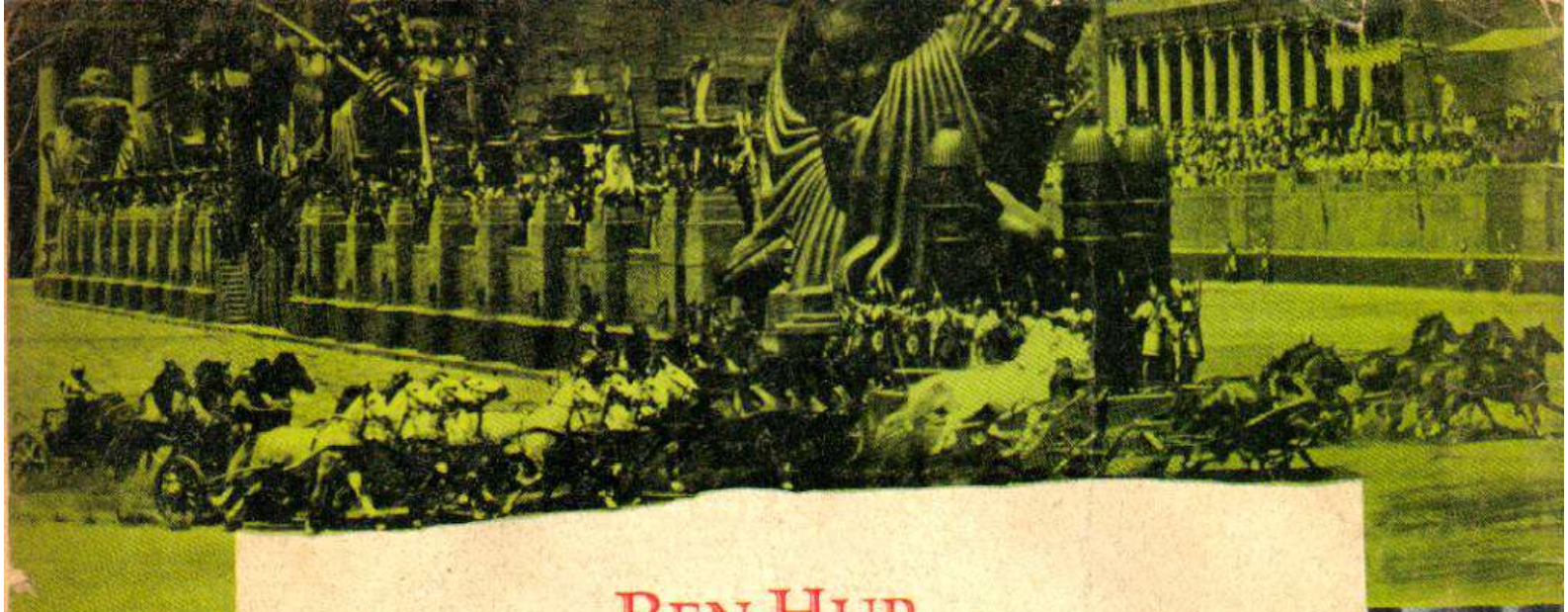


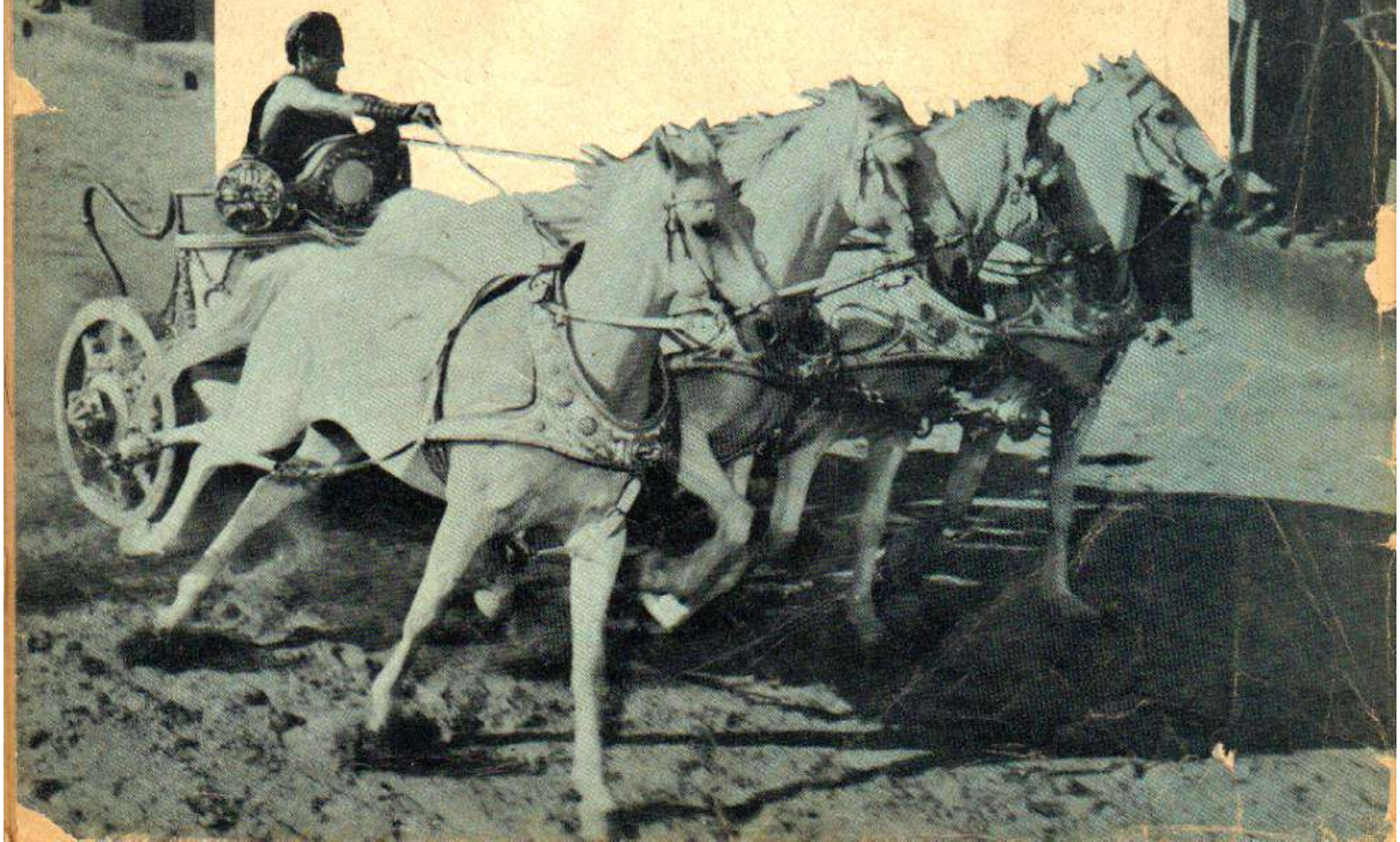
A PLEDGE DELL COMIC TO PARENTS

The Dell Trademark is, and always has been, a positive guarantee that the comic magazine bearing it contains only clean and wholesome entertainment. The Dell code eliminates entirely, rather than regulates, objectionable material. That's why when your child buys a Dell Comic you can be sure it contains only good fun. "DELL COMICS ARE GOOD COMICS" *is our only credo and constant goal.*

BEN-HUR . . . was filmed in its entirety in Italy, amid a number of actual locales in which the story is set, after more than five years of active preparation. Thousands upon thousands of costumes were assembled from all over the world, including 4,000 helmets of brass, aluminum, and tin; 1,000 breastplates; 2,000 shields and 1,000 spears; a man-made lake was dug out of the earth; several chariots were especially designed and built; a million props were assembled; and a courtyard including 40 real fountains was constructed around a floor covered with a mosaic created out of millions of tiny pieces of colored glass. Then, once the cameras turned, enough miles of film was exposed to circle the globe sixty times!





BEN-HUR

The Chariot Race in "Ben-Hur" is probably the biggest movie scene ever photographed. Three months were devoted to the filming of this one scene which lasts only fifteen minutes on the screen. A tremendous oval-shaped arena, covering eighteen acres, was carved out of a rock quarry and then covered with 40,000 tons of white sand carted from the beaches of the nearby Mediterranean Sea. An event of two and a half miles on the screen, its horses, drivers, and chariots covered more than 200 miles in its making. To participate in it, 70 horses were imported from Yugoslavia, all of which had to be especially trained. Eighteen chariots were constructed, many equipped with hydraulic brakes and some constructed in such a way that well-placed bits of dynamite would cause them to disintegrate at a precise moment. The big race scene required 15,000 Italian extras, and five cameras covered the event from every angle. The race was surely the most dramatic ever staged in Rome, where the sport had its beginnings many centuries ago.